

A RESOLUTION to honor Representative Don Ridgeway for  
heroism.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should publicly  
laud and thank those individuals who avert tragedy through their courageous and selfless  
deeds; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 1994, our own Representative Don Ridgeway was on the  
second floor of the Doubletree Hotel in Nashville preparing to check out when he was alerted by  
a youth's terrified screams to a man lying at the bottom of the hotel's swimming pool; and

WHEREAS, the victim, Eddie Fountain, 24, had arrived here an hour earlier from New  
York for the Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ridgeway quickly instructed the youth to use a rescue pole  
to try to pull Mr. Fountain to the shallow end of the pool while he went to the lobby and notified  
hotel clerks of the emergency and to call 911; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to the pool area, Representative Ridgeway went into the  
pool to help pull the man from the water and roll him on his side so that CPR could quickly be  
administered; and

WHEREAS, with little time to spare, Representative Ridgeway, along with hotel security  
and maintenance personnel, began working on the lifeless Mr. Fountain, pressing his chest and  
giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while maintaining open breathing passages; and

WHEREAS, after a seemingly endless period of time, Mr. Fountain's vital signs began to  
stabilize as Representative Ridgeway and the others continued to work on him; and

WHEREAS, a modest Don Ridgeway later downplayed the incident to the press and friends, but were it not for his quick thinking and acting during this time of extreme urgency, Mr. Fountain would not have survived; and

WHEREAS, this body is heartened by the bravery, altruism and self-possession Don Ridgeway exhibited in averting what certainly could have been a horrific loss of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby praise our friend and colleague Don Ridgeway, and thank him for his unswerving commitment to the highest ideals of public service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared and sent to Representative Ridgeway with this last resolving clause deleted from such copy.